Seizure of Deer Antlers

*27. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Indian Express dated the 31st December, 1999, regarding seizure of three tonnes of deer antlers from poachers;

(b) if so, the facts of the seizure revealed after probe;

(c) how a massacre at such a huge scale went unnoticed; and

(d) the measures proposed to check such trade?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary investigations conducted by the State Government have revealed that 3 tonnes of antlers seized belong to old stock of shed antlers collected under license issued by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise. As reported by the State Government, the antlers seized belong to the old stock of shed antlers that is shed by the deer as a part of biological process.

(d) An order banning the collection of shed antlers has been issued by the Government of India.

Enrolment of Children in Primary Schools

*28. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children enrolled in primary schools during the period from 1991-92 to 1997-98;

(b) whether Government are aware that out of 1.5 crore additional

children every year, only about 15 lakh, *i.e.* 10 per cent of additional children, are getting enrolment in primary schools for the last 50 years and the rest 1.35 crore per year are being left to grow up as illiterates;

(c) if so, the total number of illiterates/literates (capable of reading and writing) in the country existing at present at this rate; and

(d) the details of methods applied to calculate factual figure of literate people?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Assessment regarding enrolment and attendance has been made by various surveys. Some of the findings are as follows:

*Projected Population of 6—11 Age Group**

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
1991	6.03 Crore	5.64 Crore	11.67 Crore
1996	6.33 Crore	5.85 Crore	12.18 Crore
2001	6.04 Crore	5.78 Crore	11.82 Crore

*Based on Projections made by the Registrar General of India (Census)

Children Attending Schools

— All recent surveys indicate that 70% 6—14 age children are attednding schools.

— The National Family Health Survey 1992-93—75.5% boys and 58.9% girls in the 6—14 age group are attending schools. In the 6—10 age group, 75% boys and 61.2% girls were attending schools.

— The NSS 52nd round 1995-96—69% of the 6—10 age children and 72% of the 11—14 age children are attending schools.

— Then MCAER survey 1994—71% enrolment in rural areas in 15 States among the 6—14 age group.

As per report compiled on the basis of information received from the States/UTs, the enrolment is as follows:

Enrolment of Boys and Girls at Primary Stage

(in crores)

Year	Primary		
	Boys	Girls	Total
1991-92	5.86	4.23	10.09
1992-93	5.79	4.17	9.96
1993-94	5.51	4.19	9.70
1994-95*	6.23	4.68	10.91
1995-96*	6.24	4.74	10.98
1996-97*	6.25	4.79	11.04
1997-98*	6.12	4.75	10.87
1998-99*	6.27	4.82	11.09

*Provisional

(b) No, Sir. As the enrolment figures indicate, the enrolment of boys and girls over all has increased during this period. As per the projected population of children in the 6—11 age group made by the Registrar General of Census, the population in this age group is likely to come down by 2001.

(c) As per the National Sample Survey 53rd Round (1997-98), the absolute number of non-literate people in the country is showing a significant decline. By current estimates, the figure which peaked at 328 million in 1991, has already dropped to 294 million in 1997 and will further decrease to 268 million by the end of 2001. 62% Persons age 7 and above were literate in 1997.

(d) The Census undertakes a total enumeration based on ability to read and write. The NSS surveys based their findings on appropriately selected samples and ability to read and write.